The Harris Survey Post 10/31/66

Country, 3-2, Rejects Main Argument Of Warren Report on Kennedy Slaying

By Louis Harris

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The American people have deep and abiding doubts about the official explanation of the assassination of John F. Kennedy put forth in the Warren Commission Report, according to a just-completed survey.

The reaction of a cross-section of the public shows these findings:

- By a 3-to-2 margin, the American people reject the main thrust of the Warren Report that the assassination was the work of one man and tend to believe the killing was part of a larger plot. But, the public is at a loss to say who was behind the "plot."
- A majority of the public holds the view that the full story of the assassination was not contained in the Warren Commission Report.
- Fewer people today than at the time of the shooting are sure that Lee Harvey Oswald killed the late President.

The largest lack of acceptance of the explanation by the Warren Commission persists among lower-income, less-educated Americans. The more articulate, better informed groups tend to give more credence to the official report.

The national cross-section was asked:

"From what you have read, do you feel the full story of the Kennedy assassination was reported in the Warren Commission Report or do you think there are still a lot of unanswered questions about who killed President Kennedy and how it was done?"

Full story in report	32%
Still may be unanswered questions	54
Not sure	14

Just after the killing in December, 1963, and again last month, the Harris Survey asked the public:

"Do you feel that Lee Harvey Oswald was the man who shot President Kenendy?"

	Was Assassin	Not Assassin	Not Sure
Nationwide, December, 1963	74%	3%	23%
Nationwide, September, 1966	69	3	28
By education:			
8th grade or less	58	6	36
High school	70	3	27
College	75	2	23

"Do you feel that the Kennedy assassination was the work of one man or was it part of a broader plot?"

	One Man	Broader Plot	Not Sure
Nationwide	34%	46%	20%
By Education			
8th grade or less	13	56	31
High school	35	49	16
College	45	36	19

In order to probe deeper into this apparent doubt on the part of the public, the cross-section was then asked:

"Who or what people do you feel were behind the Kennedy assassination? Anyone else?"

Just Oswald	33%
Won't say	14
Communists	11
Ruby and Oswald	5
Radicals	3
Oswald and the Russians	2
Lyndon Johnson	2
Castro	1
Not sure	29

The Harris Survey Post 1/3/66

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